



WINGS SPREAD

Randolph Air Force Base ♦ Texas

59th Year ♦ No. 11 ♦ March 18, 2005



A graphic rendition shows the completed gate and Harmon Drive project currently under construction. Closing the main gate April 1 through project completion allows the work to be finished five months ahead of schedule.

Main gate to close April 1

Move will complete Harmon Drive project five months ahead of schedule

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

In a move that will complete the Harmon Drive construction project about five months ahead of schedule, the 12th Flying Training Wing commander announced the main gate will close effective April 1.

Col. John Hesterman said giving construction crews complete access to the gate area, both sides of Harmon Drive and Washington Circle means the renovation from FM 78 to the “Taj” would likely be complete this fall versus the current projection of spring 2006.

“This is the home stretch for the main gate project and, barring any extended delays due to weather or other issues, we will be back to normal gate traffic patterns in 2005 rather than next year,” Colonel Hesterman said. “We studied all options and determined this to be the best course of action

for the people who live and work on Randolph. We are taking several steps to ensure the closure has as minimal an impact as possible on morning and afternoon commuter traffic.”

Those steps include keeping the south gate open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., allowing inbound-only traffic through the south and east gates from 6-8 a.m., and in the near future moving the commercial vehicle inspection station to the south gate to ease congestion at the west gate.

In addition, the resurfacing of Lower Seguin Road from Loop 1604 to the south gate is projected to be completed in May, according to Texas Department of Transportation officials, which will increase access to the south side of the base from the west.

Officials in the 12th Security Forces Squadron recommended the following traffic patterns:

- People approaching the base from I-10 or from Loop 1604 south of Lower Seguin Road should take FM 1518 from I-10 to the east end of Lower Seguin

Road to enter the south gate.

- Drivers coming from Schertz, Cibolo and points east on FM 78 should also take FM 1518 to Lower Seguin Road to use the south gate.
- People arriving from Loop 1604 or Pat Booker Road should use the east or west gate.

“I appreciate the patience and cooperation everyone has shown to this point, and I thank our larger tenant units for initiating staggered reporting times to help alleviate the traffic congestion problems we’ve faced during this project,” Colonel Hesterman said. “I ask everyone in the Randolph community to continue those measures until the main gate reopens.”

The complete closure of Harmon Drive from the gate to the Taj, which will be enclosed by a fence, means drivers and children going to and from the elementary school from the west side of the base will not be able to cross Harmon Drive until next

See **Main gate** on page 4

12th FLYING TRAINING WING TRAINING TIMELINE											
As of Monday			Navigator, EWO training			Wing Flying Hour Program					
Squadron	Senior Class	Overall	562nd FTS	563rd FTS		Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual		
99th FTS	4.0	2.6	Air Force 298	Undergraduate 42		T-1A	5225.6	5282.1	12,184		
558th FTS	-0.3	0.5	Navy 72	International 8		T-6A	7472.0	7505.7	17,290		
559th FTS	-3.7	-3.1	International 0	EWG Course 0		T-37B	4032.4	3905.7	8,284		
560th FTS	-0.6	0.5	NIFT 17	Fundamentals 0		T-38C	4180.7	4180.3	9,729		
						T-43	1872.5	1863.9	4,293		
<small>Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.</small>			<small>Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of navigator students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.</small>			<small>The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2004 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2005.</small>					

AIR AND SPACE
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FORCE

As of Monday, 122 Team
Randolph members are
deployed in support of
military operations around
the globe



**Dedicated
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Randolph
celebrates its
75th Anniversary
in 2005**

Graphic by Michelle DeLeon

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Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Through the eyes of a commander

By Lt. Col. Stephen Spurlin
12th Security Forces Squadron commander

Most officers thrive on responsibility and leading troops, in hopes of one day being a squadron commander. Throughout my career, I learned what to do and what not to do from all of my previous commanders. After serving as a commander for the past 18 months, I am extremely honored and lucky to have the opportunity to lead my unit.

As a junior officer, I thought I could affect the mission, the lives and the careers of my troops; to help mold them and watch them grow. Now, that ability is tenfold and I have to be very judicious in how I use that authority.

As a commander, your first priority is taking care of the mission, and then taking care of the people. Not long after entering active duty, a wise senior noncommissioned officer told me "If you take care of the troops, they will take care of you and the mission will get done." I find that is still true today.

How many times have you thought, "I can't wait to be the boss," or "If I were the boss, I would ...?" Even though a commander is the "boss" of his or her unit, we are still accountable to someone else. As I see it, our "bosses" not only include senior commanders above us, but also every member in the unit.

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Zest for life shapes positive outlook

By Maj. David Carlson
52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – Recently, I read an article that rated attitude as the No. 1 trait for success among leaders. I have observed that the vast majority of leaders and mentors I have known throughout my life, who have helped mold and shape me into the person I am today, radiated a positive attitude.

Each of them may have defined and exemplified success in their lives differently, but what made them so fun, exciting and influential in my life was their positive attitude – their zest for life. In every case, their positive attitudes defied the many challenges that they may have had to face and overcome.

Maintaining a positive attitude, despite life's trials and challenges, is a conscious choice. When I was in college, Dr. Victor Frankl's book, "Man's Search for Meaning," was mandatory reading for one of my classes. In his book, Dr. Frankl described how his attitude and that of other

Holocaust survivors helped them live through the horrors of the Nazi death camps.

Regarding attitude, Dr. Frankl shared the following, "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's own attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

If Dr. Frankl and others could control their attitude in the most oppressive of circumstances, how much easier should it be for us, given so much freedom and opportunity, to "choose our own way" – to choose our attitude.

To obtain and maintain a positive attitude, the first place you need to start is with your very own thoughts. In his book, "As a Man Thinketh," Dr. James Allen, the 19th century Englishman and father of the self-help movement said, "You yourself are maker of yourself by virtue of the thoughts which you choose and encourage; that mind is the master weaver, both of the inner garment of character and the outer garment of circumstance, and that, as you may have hitherto woven in ignorance and pain, you

may now weave in enlightenment and happiness."

It is important that each and every one of us occasionally accomplishes an attitude check on ourselves. Ask yourself, "How does my attitude affect my self esteem, my unit, my friends and my family?" or "Am I allowing outside influences, such as the weather, a high ops tempo or a micro-managing supervisor that I have little to no control over to affect my behavior and my attitude?" Most of the time when I take stock of my attitude, I realize that there is always room for improvement and I try to do better.

Airmen have so much to be thankful for and be positive about. The opportunity to live in foreign countries, to experience the people, culture, language and traditions; and most importantly, the opportunity to serve the greatest freedom-loving nation on the face of the earth in the most important conflict of our time.

A positive attitude is the key to winning this conflict and any other challenge we face in life. And a positive attitude starts with you. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Agency contact numbers	
12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314

One of 88,000 is coming home



Capt. Troy Cope and his F-86 Sabre Jet. (Courtesy photo)

By Capt. Brandon Lingle
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Capt. Troy "Gordy" Cope's family finally got closure to a tragedy that's haunted them for 52 years. You see, Gordy's F-86 Sabre Jet was shot down near Dandong, China, Sept. 16, 1952, and he's been listed as missing ever since.

That changed Feb. 25 when the Department of Defense announced Gordy's remains had been identified and will soon be returned to his family. The remains were recovered from the crash site and identified using DNA.

I met Gordy's nephew, Chris Cope, nearly two years ago at a meeting in Houston held for relatives of those still lost from past wars. I was there to write a story about a group of people from the Air Force Personnel Center who are responsible for tracking Airmen still unaccounted for.

They attend these regional meetings held 10 times annually to talk with the missing Airmen's families. To them it's more than a job, it's a mission of the heart. They share more than just information, they also share compassion and support.

The meetings, or "updates," allow families to talk about their experiences with others still enduring the same complex emotions, according to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the agency responsible for the meetings.

Tears are common. Tense faces hide decades of not knowing what happened to husbands, fathers, brothers and sons. My conversations with some of these families who lost so much will stay with me forever.

At that time, Chris Cope didn't know what had happened to his uncle Gordy. There were some

promising leads throughout the years, but nothing definite. A 1995 sighting of Gordy's dog tags in a Chinese military museum and some newly discovered Russian documents gave Chris the feeling that the case was at the verge of a breakthrough.

I remember Chris's positive outlook and air of determination. He showed me a framed photo of Gordy kneeling on the wing of the plane he named after his wife "Rosie." The photo looked as if it was taken yesterday. The young man in the photo had a look of strength and perseverance – his eyes looked through me. His nephew had the same look.

Like 150 other families that day, Chris traveled a long way to talk to DoD people about his loved one. On Feb. 26, the day after the announcement of Gordy's identification, Chris made yet another trip to an update – this time to San Antonio. But this one was different. Chris's role had changed overnight. Now Chris's story is one of bittersweet hope for other families.

Captain Cope's name can be taken off the list of nearly 88,000 people still missing from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War combined. There's still a lot of work to be done, and with any luck the list won't get any longer.

Some people say that this is a good story to get out to those fighting in the Global War on Terrorism – to let them know that the U.S. will keep the promise that everyone comes home. I tend to think it's more important for the families of those deployed to know this. Even then coming home this way is hardly a comforting idea to anyone.

Chris says they're planning Gordy's funeral for May 31 near his hometown of Plano, Texas. For the Cope family, the haunting wait is finally over.

News

Personnel records to stay at AFPC

Airmen who retire or separate don't have to wait several months to receive requested copies of certain records thanks to a recent change in how the Air Force maintains personnel records.

The 49-year-old practice of sending nearly 5,500 personnel records each month to the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, Mo. ended in February as part of an effort to save money and give Airmen better access to their records.

"People usually have a lengthy wait before receiving copies of their records from the NPRC and it costs the Air Force around \$8 million a year to maintain records there," said Jo Hogue, chief of master personnel records at the Air Force Personnel Center. "That price tag would keep increasing if we sent more records to the NPRC and our customers wouldn't have the accessibility we'll be able to provide."

"Air Force Personnel is committed to providing state of the art, convenient, leading edge service and this is another step in the effort to make Air Force personnel records available online anytime," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "We hope to be able to offer that capability to our active duty customers sometime in the next few of years."

In the meantime, former active-duty Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004 can request copies of records such as DD Form 214s, performance reports and other information by writing or faxing:

AFPC/DPFFCMP
550 C St. West, Suite 19
Randolph AFB, TX 78150
Fax: Commercial (210)565-4021, DSN: 665-4021

People requesting their own records need to send a signed note that includes their name, social security number, contact information and specific record requested. Those requesting a relative's record also need to provide their relationship to the former Airman.

Former Guard and Reserve Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004 can write or fax:
HQ ARPC/PSDC
6760 E. Irvington Place, Suite 4000
Denver, CO 80280
Commercial (303) 676-7071 DSN 926-7071

Those who retired or separated before Oct. 1, 2004 can visit the NPRC Web site for record request instructions at www.archives.gov/facilities-mo/st_louis.html.

This change doesn't affect the disposition of medical and dental records, according to Mrs. Hogue. They will still be stored permanently at the NPRC.

"From now on, all Air Force personnel records will be scanned for permanent electronic storage here in the Automated Records Management System and the records that are already at the NPRC will stay there," Mrs. Hogue said. "Converting the records from paper to electronic also provides an

additional backup version of each record."

Before this change, the paper copy that went to the NPRC was the only copy of a person's record, now there are two e-versions in separate locations, according to Mrs. Hogue. The new system's backups are approved by the National Archivist, head of the National Archives and Records Administration, the federal agency responsible for preserving our nation's history.

The new ARMS' backup systems allow the Air Force to return to the practice of eliminating the paper versions of records. From 1971-1994, AFPC destroyed the original copies of individual master personnel records because a microfilm copy was attached to the Unit Personnel Record Group that was forwarded to the NPRC, according to Mrs. Hogue. When the first electronic record storage system started in 1995, AFPC began storing paper copies of master personnel records again because the new system didn't provide a backup like the microfilm did.

Those who served or are currently serving as active duty members can call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center more information at (800) 616-3775, commercial (210) 565-5000 or DSN: 665-5000. Those who served or are serving in the Air National Guard or Reserve can call the Air Reserve Personnel Center at (800) 525-0102.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Maj. Francisco Simas
Air Education and Training Command

Tuesday
Master Sgt. Shirley Moore
AETC

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the *Wingspread* office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the *Wingspread* office at 652-5760.

AETC names new command chief master sergeant

Air Education and Training Command recently named Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison as the new AETC command chief master sergeant.

Chief Ellison succeeds Chief Master Sergeant Karl Meyers as the top enlisted member in AETC following Chief Meyers' retirement March 11.

The command chief master sergeant advises the AETC commander and senior staff on the morale, welfare and effective use of more than 34,000 enlisted Airmen at locations worldwide, plus the more than 350,000 enlisted members trained and educated in the command annually.

Chief Ellison previously served as the ACC command chief master sergeant at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Chief Ellison was born into an Air Force family, and his father's final assignment was Luke AFB, Ariz. The Chief enlisted in the Air Force in December of 1976. His career assignments include positions as a ground radio operator, command post controller, noncommissioned officer in charge and superintendent at different locations. He has served as an additional duty first sergeant, a major command career functional manager, and commandant of a noncommissioned officer academy. He has also been deployed and made numerous trips to Southwest Asia.



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison

Air Force officials project budget shortfall

By Master Sgt. David Byron
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Supporting the war on terrorism and ongoing operations around the world have created a projected budget shortfall forcing the Air Force to tighten its belt.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper has directed all major commands to cut back on low priority spending in an attempt to stave off a budget crisis.

"We expect to be \$733 million short in military personnel funding," General Jumper said in a message to major command commanders. "And based on our current burn rates, we project a \$3 billion shortfall in our (operations and maintenance) funds by the end of the year."

The unexpected debt can be largely attributed to war-on-terrorism expenses, officials said.

The fiscal 2005 supplemental funding bill is currently working its way through Congress.

"We're faced with some uncertainty because congressional action still lies ahead and may not be completed until April," the general said. "We will have to realign some funding to ensure all commands are solvent while we await the supplemental bill's enactment."

Although it will affect modernization efforts, funds will be reprogrammed as a partial solution. The general identified the top two funding priorities.

"We must continue to support

"We expect to be \$733 million short in military personnel funding. And based on our current burn rates, we project a \$3 billion shortfall in our (operations and maintenance) funds by the end of the year."

General John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

requirements of the global war on terrorism and ongoing operations in the theater," General Jumper said. "We must also protect efforts supporting the next rotation to those operations."

While readiness and combat training, including flying hours, will remain a high priority, the general has directed slowing those activities if it is clearly necessary to meet the top two priorities.

Some areas will be hit harder.

"Facilities, business operations, travel, administrative functions, nondeployment-related training and new contracts rank as lower priorities," he said. "These areas should be slowed significantly through the end of the fiscal year."

Air Force and MAJCOM leaders are currently building detailed plans to keep the O&M account solvent through Sept. 30 using available funding, and most MAJCOMs have

already begun changing their spending priorities.

Air Force Space Command officials delayed some key programs, and limited contract awards, facility projects, travel expenses, equipment purchases and supply requirements not directly tied to the ongoing war effort, officials said.

Despite the cuts, AFSPC officials have said they remain committed to focusing their remaining funds on maintaining space superiority, providing desired combat effects to the joint warfighter, and maintaining strategic deterrence.

Air Mobility Command officials also cut back on travel, supply and equipment purchases that don't affect current combat operations, officials said. They have also limited facility projects to emergency work only and slowed planned technology upgrades.

Mobility flying operations, required depot maintenance and all war-related activities will not be affected, AMC officials said.

Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard will not immediately be affected. Their appropriation funding bill is separate from the active-duty system.

"We will do all we can to find more funding," General Jumper said. "But, we have to cover the military personnel bill and ongoing war effort first."

"I'm asking that all Airmen give this their personal attention and carefully consider whether each dollar spent is spent wisely."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

NEWS BRIEFS

Productivity investment programs

Air Education and Training Command has funds left in the Productivity Enhancing Capitol Investment program for equipment needs. The overall objective of the PEGI Program is to reduce manpower or operating costs through implementation of various efficiencies.

These efficiencies can be as simple as purchasing a new computer program or as complex as work center automation. All appropriated fund activities are eligible to participate. Eligible requests can receive monies for both Fast Capital Investment and Productivity Investment Funds.

The PEGI program provides funding to purchase equipment. FASCAP is for projects up to \$200,000 with a payback in 2 years and Productivity Investment Fund is used for projects exceeding \$200,000 or more with payback in 4 years.

To check qualification for these funds, reference Air Force Instruction 38-301 or call the 12th Mission Support Squadron manpower and organization flight at 652-2590, ext. 3066.

Stray animal policy

Stray animals found on base are picked up by the Schertz Animal Control officers. Base residents may contact the 12th Security Forces Squadron control center at 652-5700 to report stray animals.

To claim a stray animal, call the Schertz Animal Shelter, 658-6607. Fees to claim strays start at \$20, plus \$10 per day they are held.

Call the base vet clinic at 652-3190 for more details.

South pool house to be demolished

Work crews start demolition of the bathhouse at the south pool, across H Street from Building 905, to build a new bathhouse reflecting historical design.

Vehicle maintenance closure

The vehicle maintenance section, Building 171, is closing Thursday at 11 a.m for an official function.

Main gate

Continued from Page 1

fall when Washington Circle and Harmon Drive have been completed and returned to the base, said Dwight Micklethwait, 12th Mission Support Group Civil Engineer Directorate project manager. A bus will take children from the West Wherry Housing Area to the elementary school the remainder of the school year, transportation officials said. Residents will receive information about bus stop locations, and pickup and drop-off times.

Full access to the construction area, which has been shared from 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 3-6 p.m. with motorists along half the drive, will give the contractor quick access in and out of the site. This will be a tremendous timesaver for delivery of an estimated 1,000 truckloads of concrete for resurfacing the roadway, Mr. Micklethwait said.

When the project is complete, a new gatehouse will be positioned about 200 feet farther into the base than the old gate entrance. A new Visitor Control Center and state-of-the-art vehicle inspection station will be located outside the gate on the site of the old visitor center.

AETC Wins Tubbs Ground Safety Award for 2004

Air Force officials announced Air Education and Training Command received the Colonel William L. Tubbs Memorial Award for Ground Safety for fiscal year 2004. This marks the second consecutive year AETC has received this award for mishap reduction.

"Through a variety of proactive mishap prevention programs we have been extremely effective in reducing mishaps," said Colonel Frank Palumbo, AETC safety director. "During Operation Safe Summer, we reduced fatal mishaps by 87 percent. Our command safety magazine, Torch, continued to lead the way in military safety magazines, allowing us to spread the safety message throughout both the command and the Air Force."

Reducing mishaps requires a team approach according to Ed Talbott, AETC safety deputy director.

"Our basic military and technical training instructors instill safety awareness in our recruits, while our commanders, supervisors, and senior noncommissioned officers ensure people continue to work in a safe manner," said Mr. Talbott.

AETC safety officials also take great pride in their mishap reduction while Airmen are off-duty.

"People are applying the concepts of personnel risk management during operation of personal vehicles and off-duty recreational activities," said Mr. Talbott. "Off-duty activities are the biggest threat to our people, and for the most part we are protecting ourselves and each other."

The Colonel William L. Tubbs Memorial Award for Ground Safety is presented annually to major commands that significantly reduce mishaps.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

Commander commitment



Col. John Hesterman, 12th Flying Training Wing commander (left), and Col. George Duda, 12th FTW vice commander, sign their Air Force Assistance Fund pledge cards. Randolph's campaign runs through April 8. For details about AFAP, call Maj. Rick Fofi at 652-4931. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

AF Portal provides reduced sign-on to myPay

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

users must already have an active myPay account.

After logging on to the portal at <http://my.af.mil>, users can click "Applications" on the right side of the screen and then scroll down to "myPay (E/MSS)." After clicking the myPay link, the portal creates a dialogue box to help guide them through the setup process.

Setup requires entering the user's login ID and PIN for myPay. Once set up, users need only log into the portal and click the myPay link to get instant access to their pay information.

Having to remember many user passwords is one of the reasons the portal was created. The idea is called "reduced sign-on" and the portal does it for a myriad of Air Force information applications and Web sites.

WASHINGTON – Airmen have one less password to remember thanks to a new link between the Air Force Portal and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay Web site.

Airmen can now have the portal remember their login name and password for myPay, the DFAS online site for pay information, leave and earnings statements, tax forms and allotments.

"The change makes it easier for Airmen to access their information online," said Richard Gustafson, Air Force financial management chief information officer.

To take advantage of the new feature, portal

By Capt. Brandon Lingle
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Michael Crittenden is looking forward to meeting a new member of his family after he returns from his first deployment.

He found out his wife was pregnant with their first child the day before he left for Kabul, Afghanistan in January.

The father to be left his job at the Air Force Personnel Center's retirements and separations office, to work in the commander's support staff at the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan.

The mission of the joint/coalition OMC-A is to help the Afghans train and build their national army and eventually air force, according to Sergeant Crittenden.

"I've been to almost every state in the U.S., it's nice to go half way around the world and experience a different culture," he said. "You see how people so far away live, what they do, how they are like you and how they differ."

But Sergeant Crittenden doesn't just experience the Afghan culture from behind a desk.

"I've been detailed for convoy duty,"

he said. "We go to Bagram every now and then; it's about a one hour drive with a whole lot of nothing to see except some nice mountains."

One of his most exciting moments in Afghanistan came while he was on convoy duty.

"We were in the middle of nowhere and the explosive ordnance disposal team had the road blocked while they defused an improvised explosive device, we were maybe 100 yards away," he said. "We got out of our vehicles, loaded a round if we hadn't already, and stared out toward the mountains, hoping nothing would happen – about 15 minutes later, we heard the boom, got back in our vehicles and continued on."

Sergeant Crittenden has also had the chance to personally help some local Afghan children.

"We just went to a 'big boy' orphanage (ages 13-18) and handed out clothes, school supplies, and candy – it's a very poor country, it's sad, but it's been a way of life for them for so long," he said. "While we were there, someone noticed some unexploded ordnance near the building so we called EOD. The kids didn't seem to mind, there are so many mines around here, that it's just a part of life."



Tech. Sgt. Michael Crittenden visits an Afghan orphanage near Kabul, Afghanistan, recently. Sergeant Crittenden is deployed to the Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan from the Air Force Personnel Center here. (Photo by Army Col. Barringer Wingard)

To prepare for his deployment, he spoke with another AFPC member who had recently returned from OMC-A. AFPC's team mindset also seems to be helping Sergeant Crittenden's family during his absence.

"My office is always asking if there is anything they can do to help out," he said.

His advice for those deploying to Afghanistan is simple: bring a DVD player, go with an open mind, try to learn their language and try to get out to one of the orphanages or refugee camps, basically just try to make the most of it.

Sergeant Crittenden is set to return in May and his baby is due in September.

Tax Tips

Deductions for state and local sales tax

People who itemize deductions when filing their 2004 federal income tax returns will be able to claim state and local sales tax for the first time. Internal Revenue Service Publication 600, Optional State Sales Tax Tables includes work sheets for calculating the total amount of tax that can be deducted. In addition to the standard amounts from the sales tax tables, sales taxes paid on large purchase items, such as motor vehicles, mobile homes and home building supplies, may be included. Publication 600 may be downloaded from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or ordered by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.

From stripes to bars

Competition keen for Air Force commission opportunities

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

“When it comes to Air Force commissioning opportunities, the key word is education, education, education.”

This should be no surprise to anyone connected with the Air Force. The service strongly encourages all its members to take advantage of training and education programs whenever possible. But when discussing programs for enlisted service-members to earn commissioned officer status, education is not just encouraged, it is a requirement, said Capt. Patricia Jopling, regional director of admissions, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Southwest Region.

For more than 40 years, the Air Force has required all candidates for commissioning to have a four-year college degree. This is also a requirement for enlisted servicemembers who want to transition to commissioned ranks, but the Air Force has programs to help them achieve that goal.

Captain Jopling said that competition is keen for the available slots in the commissioning programs. While the minimum scholastic grade point average is 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, the average GPA for people selected is 3.5.

Two major programs currently available are the Airman’s Education and Commissioning Program and the Airman Scholarship Commissioning Program. Unfortunately, the captain said, there are no new slots for either program during fiscal year 2005 because of the current force restructuring. However, openings should be available in the next fiscal year and interested people should start their application process soon.

Under the AECP, Airmen are enrolled in a college or university ROTC program

while attending the school as a full time, but active duty, student. Under the ASCP, the Airmen are released from active duty and immediately enter into an ROTC contract. After graduating from their academic programs, the Airmen must complete Officer Training School, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., for commissioning.

There are also opportunities for commissioning in the Professional Officers Course. These programs include an early release from active duty in order to pursue specific technical and professional degree programs along with ROTC coursework. However, competition for the few slots in this program is intense, Captain Jopling said.

Active duty, Reserve and Guard enlisted members interested in commissioning should check with the base education office for details of required course work. Air Force Instructions 36-2031 and 36-2005 contain information about qualifying for commissioning.

The Southwest ROTC Region, headquartered here, is responsible for ROTC programs at 17 colleges and universities in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and also 129 Junior ROTC units in high schools throughout the region.

Captain Jopling also serves as an admissions officer for the Air Force Academy. She said students interested in the AFA should get their applications complete during their junior year of high school.

“In addition to high grades,” the captain said, “AFA selection boards look for demonstrated leadership in school, community and church activities. Taken together, these are clues to successful completion of the course of study and point to the character traits that contribute to a great career.”

“The real message,” Captain Jopling said, “is that there are good opportunities for commissioning, but they take work, dedication and patience.”

Spur of the moment



Capt. Matthew Quenichet (left) and Navy Lt. Chris Moylan, instructor navigators, pick up the San Antonio Spurs Coyote Thursday in a simulator room at the 562nd Flying Training Squadron. The NBA team mascot visited several areas of the base, including security forces on duty at the west gate, as part of a video production that will be shown during a March 25 Military Appreciation Night Spurs home game vs. the Atlanta Hawks. (Photo by Steve White)

Photo by Steve White

Movin' on up:

Joint Personal Property Shipping Office lends a hand to military when moving

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Every year, more than 65,000 households are moved across the United States for permanent change of station moves, and the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office is responsible for providing this service to all authorized members of the Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard.

Established in 1963 to provide quality traffic management service worldwide to military and civilian personnel, JPPSO currently covers an area about 233,000 square miles. This Randolph tenant unit supports 229 counties in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Missouri.

“Recently, Air Force JPPSOs have become regionalized and now they perform back office services for various Air Force installations within their area of operation, such as booking, billing and payment responsibilities,” said Bill Wiley, JPPSO deputy director.

Because they are now responsible for moving DoD families in five states, the San Antonio staff has grown from 80 to over 100 employees and the workload has increased from 25,000 to 65,000 moves annually, said Mr. Wiley.

They provide back office service to 13 military installations, and manage inbound and outbound domestic and international shipments, temporary storage en route, and permanent storage shipments. Back office includes, among other services, keeping contracts on the movers, taking disciplinary action against problems with movers, paying bills and keeping all records of contract issues.

“Continued regionalization is one of the biggest challenges that we face,” said Mr. Wiley. “We are often directed to take on additional work for installations wanting to fall under our regionalization ‘umbrella’ and most often we are given deadlines to assume workloads before facilities, equipment and manpower are made available to them.”

To meet these demands, the JPPSO

staff works overtime to make most work areas automated. This gives technicians more time to do other things, said Mr. Wiley.

Currently, Army installations in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana are also being considered for regionalization with the JPPSO San Antonio office.

JPPSO is comprised of three divisions – personal property and shipments, excess cost adjudication and operations and plans.

The personal property and shipments division is responsible for scheduling all inbound deliveries and outbound bookings, said Mr. Wiley. The shipments section tracks late shipments and missing items.

“The personal property division also serves as a liaison between customers, personal property shipping offices, commercial carriers and agents,” said Mr. Wiley. “They also perform on-site personal property and warehouse inspections.”

The excess cost adjudication division is responsible for approving requests to airlift household goods, recovers unearned transportation charges and assists other transportation agencies on Air Force excess cost matters worldwide, added Mr. Wiley. In fiscal year 2003, the division reviewed over 24,000 cases of carrier unearned transportation charges paid by the U.S. Government and were reimbursed more than \$800,000 from commercial carriers.

“The excess cost division is important to our office because they can determine which shipment or storage plans result in the lowest cost to the military member or civilian employee,” said Mr. Wiley.

The operations and plans division of JPPSO houses the computer support section for the agency. They are responsible for maintaining the entire JPPSO San Antonio computer network and maintaining the Web



Anita Cantu from Jonas Brothers Company packs boxes for a military member who is PCSing.

site and e-mail servers, said Mr. Wiley.

To meet the demands of a military that is constantly on the move, JPPSO relies on automation.

“Our automation efforts have allowed us to reach and move military members quickly, anywhere in the world,” said Mr. Wiley. “Our technicians are constantly being trained which ensures that military members are provided every entitlement allowable.”

Mr. Wiley suggests military members who will be moving soon should contact their JPPSO counselor as soon as they receive their movement alert notice.

“The counselors are trained to provide each member with various information to make their move smoother,” said Mr. Wiley. “Late contact with a counselor may cause delays and place hardships on the military member, such as not getting the moving date they want.”



Charles Swearnger from Covan World Wide Moving, Inc. loads boxes of household goods into a truck for a PCS move. (Photos by Jennifer Valentin)

Officers’ club salon offers variety of services

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The Randolph Officers’ Club is now taking reservations for beauty needs.

The old barbershop, located in the basement by the Auger Inn, recently re-opened its doors as a salon.

“We are now a full-service salon with a wide variety of services to choose from, whether you want a quick trim during your lunch break or an afternoon to pamper yourself,” said Missy Jones, officers’ club office manager.

The salon offers services for people of every age, including child and adult haircuts, pedicures, waxing, facials and much more.

The salon is open to anyone who has access to

the base, whether active duty, retirees, civilians or family members. We cater to everyone’s needs, said Ms. Jones.

Currently the salon has one hairstylist on staff, but are planning to have a barber within the next few months.

“After not having anyone to work in the salon several months ago, we decided to close it for a while until we found someone,” said Ms. Jones. “Our hairstylist, Mercedes, does a great job and can make time for all of her customers.”

The salon is open Monday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday by appointment. Customers can make appointments for any day by calling 658-6462 or 213-9020.

Mercedes Fagan cuts customer Rachael Goolsby’s hair at the officers’ club hair salon. (Photo by Steve White)



Salon services include....

Haircuts
Styles
Shampoos
Perms
Highlights
Conditioning
Facials
Waxing
Make-up
Manicures
Pedicures
....and more

Women IN ACTION



Elaine Limon, 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate avionics technician intern, reviews a manual used for T-43 maintenance work.



Senior Airman Ria Sonny, 12th Operations Support Squadron life support technician, works on a radio that goes inside aircraft survival kits.



Marcille Schneider, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate survival equipment technician, packs a T-37 parachute.



Jacqueline Henley, 12th Communications Squadron telephone installer, repairs base telephone wires.



First Lieutenant Tiffany Edge (left) and Senior Airman Jessica Clegg, 12th Security Forces Squadron, check identification cards at the west gate.

For the past 75 years, women have made significant contributions to the success of Randolph's flying training operation in traditional and non-traditional roles. Here are some examples of their contributions in recognition of Women's History Month.

(Photos by Steve White)



Danielle Webb, 12th Communications Squadron telephone installer, checks the base's telephone mainframe.

Checkmate



Damon Ulrich studies a move at the base chess tournament Saturday at the enlisted club. The tournament winners were awarded trophies. The winners are: military, Tech. Sgt. Brian Smith; civilian, Paul Fafoutakis; youth ages 13-18, Gabriel Copley; youth ages 9-12, Autumn Copley; youth ages 6-8, Isaiah Sefton. (Photo illustration by Steve White)

Cycling: Fitness center offers new trend in exercise

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

A new aerobic activity has ‘parked’ inside fitness centers across America, including Randolph’s. This latest trend is known as stationary cycling.

The fitness center offers cycling classes six days a week. This 45-minute cardio workout is set to music, using a stationary bike.

Indoor cycling is an exercise program that uses a specially designed stationary bike as well as a series of cycling movements that provide the person with both a physical and mental workout.

The intensity of the workout can be adjusted by manipulating the resistance knobs located on each bicycle, giving every person their own individualized workout.

“A great advantage to cycling is that it gives people the chance to go at their own pace,” said Lt. Col. Tony Pino, cycling class instructor. “The instructor can recommend specific levels or pedal tensions to set, but ultimately it’s up to the person how hard they want to work.”

In addition to the cardiovascular and fat burning benefits, indoor cycling is a low impact exercise, said Colonel Pino. Cycling is a great alternative for people who have knee injuries or have trouble doing high impact workouts.

“Those new to cycling are taught proper bike adjustment, different cycling body positions and proper peddling strokes,” said the colonel. “The cycling workout mainly focuses on the legs, however, many other muscle groups are exercised.”

Anyone looking to start a new exercise routine should consult their physician before doing so. People interested in indoor, stationary cycling should become familiar with a bicycle and be sure that the bike is comfortable for them.

For beginners, Colonel Pino recommends attending the class twice a week until they get used to the exercise.

Cycling is a great exercise routine, said the colonel, because it can be done indoors or outdoors. So no matter what the weather outside is like, people can stick to their exercise routine and make it a regular habit.

When attending the class, Colonel Pino recommends people wear comfortable clothes such as biking shorts



Maj. Jeffrey Schoonover, 12th Medical Group, and Rhonda Barner participate in the fitness center’s cycling class, offered six days a week. (Photo by Steve White)

and comfortable workout shoes. Pants are not recommended since they can hinder pedaling.

The classes are held Monday through Thursday at 6 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.; Friday at 6 and 11 a.m.; and Saturday at 10 a.m. No classes are held on federal holidays.

The class is free and open to military members, civilian employees and dependents age 16 years and older.

The class has 15 spots available on a first come basis. The room opens 15 minutes before the class starts, and all participants are required to sign in. The cycling room is located in the fitness center annex next to the racquetball courts.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Military Ball Hockey Tournament

The base fitness center and the San Antonio Rampage are hosting a Military Ball Hockey Tournament April 2 in the main fitness center.

Players will rate themselves in one of four divisions: beginner, novice, experienced and expert. Teams consist of four to six players with one goalie. All players must submit their name and rating to the fitness center for a draft of teams on March 31.

Players are encouraged to bring their own equipment. Some equipment is provided by the Rampage staff. The tournament is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders.

Call the fitness center at 652-5316 for more details.

Ro-Hawk players receive honors

Randolph High School student Emma Przybyslawski was named to the Division 2A all-district basketball first team. Megan Flores won second team all-district honors. Honorable mentions were given to Jessica Berish and Alisha Bailey.

Also named to the District 27 academic all-district team are Emma and Ally Przybyslawski, Leah Solomon, Jade Gonzales and Megan Flores.

Fitness classes for seniors

People can pre-register April 1 for the Introduction to Fitness classes for seniors.

The class is April 4 at 10 a.m. and open to all DoD ID cardholders.

Tour de Cure San Antonio

The 2005 Tour de Cure San Antonio is May 21-22 at various locations. Check in time is 7 a.m. and start time is 8 a.m.

Visit www.diabetes.org/tour for more details.

Intramural Bowling Standings

As of March 7		
Team	W	L
SVS	128	56
JPPSO	120	64
AFSAT	113	71
AFPC	113	71
AFPOA	108	76
DFAS	106	78
AETC/SC	104	80
AETC/LG	101	83
AETC/FM	95	89
AFMA	94	90
SVS TOO	92	92
LRS	92	92
AFSVA	90	94
CS	87	97
CPTS	86	98
SFS	85	99
RS	82	102
AFPC/ESC	82	102
MED GP	82	102
AMO #1	81	103
AETC 900	80	104
AMO TOO	76	108
AETC/DP	65	119
BYE	40	144

TEAM SCRATCH SERIES

Team	Score
SVS	3058
AFPC	2796
RS	2592

TEAM HANDICAP SERIES

Team	Score
AFPOA	3530
SVS TOO	3352
AMO	3306

TEAM SCRATCH GAME

Team	Score
AETC/SC	1008
JPPSO	954
CS	893

TEAM HANDICAP GAME

Team	Score
DFAS	1244
AFPC/ESC	1193
SFS	1142

SCRATCH SERIES

Men		Score
Andy Anderson Jr.		696
Ken Davis		663
Walt Banks		661
Women		Score
Heather Hellmann		559
Bobbi Walker		466
Debra Chauvin		429

AFPC rolls in rout of 12 LRS

By Jeff Palombo
Wingspread contributor

As the 2005 intramural basketball playoffs continued Tuesday night at the Randolph Fitness Center, the Air Force Personnel Center team served notice to all tournament participants they were going to bring their collective A-game.

The 12th Logistics Readiness Squadron got the message loud and clear as they were decisively dismantled, 63-44.

Charlie Freeman led AFPC’s balanced attack with 17 points, but it wasn’t about individual greatness. It was about teamwork.

“Everyone played well tonight,” said Freeman. “We got a lift from Greg Walker. He had the tough obstacle of guarding their primary scorer, Adam Wilson, most of the night. That took pressure off me on the defensive end so I could be more effective offensively.”



Marcus Hamilton, 12th LRS, attempts to dribble past the hard press defense of AFPC’s Brent Jordan. (Photos by Steve White)

Displaying an unselfish brand of basketball, AFPC time and again made the extra pass, leading to easy bucket after easy bucket. Feasting on the veritable smorgasbord that was 12th LRS’s inability to defend, Fred Coy and Walker scored 13 and 12, respectively, getting AFPC out to a 33-16 halftime lead. The lead proved to be too insurmountable for LRS to overcome.

Speaking of LRS, Bertil Lima hit four three-pointers, all in the second half, to finish with 16 points and the respect of his AFPC counterparts. Adam Wilson finished with 13, while Keith Nash contributed 10 to the cause.

That’s right Math majors, these three combined for 39 of their team’s 44 points. Unfortunately, it isn’t a 3-on-3 tournament, so if they hope to bounce back, getting the entire team on the same page will be of utmost importance.

Meanwhile, with wins coming in impressive fashion in its two opening games, AFPC looks to be the team that no one wants to play but will have to in order to win this tournament.

Just ask team leader Freeman, who also serves as a starter for the Randolph varsity team.

“I like our chances in the playoffs,” he said. “I believe with the way we are playing right now, we are the team to beat. Our up-tempo and hard defensive



Michael Obregon, AFPC, makes a layup in front of 12th LRS defender Adam Wilson during intramural basketball playoffs Tuesday night.

style of play frustrates our opponents. If we continue to play like we do, I can see the championship coming to AFPC.”